

# A VIEW FROM FEW

AN ORGANIZATION FOR OPPORTUNITY AND EQUALITY FOR WOMEN IN  
GOVERNMENT

Space Coast Chapter, Kennedy Space Center, FL

November 2000

## SPACE COAST CHAPTER, FEW

2000 - 2001

### Officers and Committees

<b>President</b>	<b>Aneta Ott</b>
<b>Finance</b>	<b>Clara Anderson</b>
<b>Public Relations</b>	<b>Jean Grenville</b>
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Vickie Hall/Rutha Williams</b>
<b>NTP/RTP Planners</b>	<b>Connie Dobrin/Barb Powell</b>
<b>Nominations</b>	<b>Arden Belt</b>
<b>Webmaster</b>	<b>Debbie Ward</b>
<b>Presidents Task Force</b>	<b>Vickie Hall</b>
<b>President Elect</b>	<b>Connie Dobrin</b>
<b>Seminar</b>	<b>Becky Fasulo</b>
<b>Compliance/Diversity</b>	<b>Sue Gaines</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Barb Powell</b>
<b>Programs</b>	<b>Jean Grenville</b>
<b>Parliamentarian</b>	<b>Carolyn Burnham</b>
<b>Community Outreach</b>	<b>Dawn Partlow</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Christy Vanasse</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Patricia Leonard</b>
<b>Sunshine</b>	<b>Suzanne Worland</b>
<b>Environmental</b>	<b>Valarie Franklin</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Jane Eitel</b>
<b>Scholarships</b>	<b>Christy Vanasse</b>
<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Connie Dobrin</b>
<b>Historian</b>	<b>Carolyn Burnham</b>
<b>Past President</b>	<b>Vickie Hall</b>
<b>National Legal Chairperson</b>	<b>Karin Biega</b>
<b>Regional Awards</b>	<b>Becky Fasulo</b>
<b>Regional Nominations &amp; Elections</b>	<b>Jane Eitel</b>
<b>Regional Legislative Chairperson</b>	<b>Vickie Hall</b>
<b>NTP 2002 Acting Chairperson</b>	<b>Clara Anderson</b>

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Well, another month has flown by. If you missed our Oct. Meeting at the Olive Garden, Barbara & Jerry Jargowski, who is with the League of Women Voters, presented the information on the referendums that will appear on the ballot on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>. They were very informative and brought us up to snuff on all of them. It was a very informative meeting.

Many Thanks go to Dawn Partlow and Becky Fasulo for making our Day of Caring complete. They delivered over 200 diapers..... Glad I won't have to use them. (smile)

I will be picking up the angels from Baxley Manor on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>. Again we have a chance to make their Christmas. I will be in touch. Delivery of items for the month will be on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Thanks for all that you do.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

### Calendar of Events

<b>Nov 13-20</b>	<b>KSC Technology Transfer Week</b>
<b>Nov 16</b>	<b>Seminar Meeting (4:30 p.m., Rm 2414/Hqs Bldg)</b>
<b>Nov 18</b>	<b>The Salvation Army Teddy Bear Tea &amp; Auction (Auction at 2:30 p.m.)</b>
<b>Nov 23</b>	<b>Happy Thanksgiving!</b>
<b>Nov 27</b>	<b>Space Coast Chapter Monthly Business Meeting Hqs. Room 1460</b>
<b>Dec 2</b>	<b>Shopping Expenditure to Sawgrass Mall/Ft. Lauderdale</b>

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### SUNSHINE

Suzanne Worland



The following members have birthdays in  
the month of November :

|                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Zoa Dodd</b>       | <b>November 11</b> |
| <b>Betty Ann Gary</b> | <b>November 15</b> |
| <b>Rubye Jennings</b> | <b>November 4</b>  |
| <b>Debbie Ward</b>    | <b>November 21</b> |

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YA!!**

Also if you are not listed on the Birthday list, it's because we do not have your birthday in our books, please send an e-mail to Suzanne Worland with the day so that we do not leave you out. [Suzanne.Worland-1@ksc.nasa.gov](mailto:Suzanne.Worland-1@ksc.nasa.gov)

## New Members

Patsy Leonard

FEW gives a warm welcome to our new members:

Lynn Heggs,                      Gina O'shaughnessy,  
Pam Steel,                      Zoa Dodd

### **SMILE OF THE DAY**

Thought for the month:

"People will forget what you said.

People will forget what you did.

But, people will never forget how  
you made them feel."

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### **WOULD YOU BELIEVE?**

Coca-Cola invented the modern image of Santa Claus as part of a 1931 advertising campaign.

While asleep, on the average, people swallow eleven spiders in their lifetime.

The average weight of Miss American was 132 lbs. in 1954, in 1980 it was 117 lbs.

Coffee, Java, Joe, Brew, Mud...

It's estimated that more than 100 million American drink a total of 400 million cups a day.

The discovery of coffee is traced back to the sixth century A.D. and attributed to an Ethiopian goatherder named Kaldi. Kaldi noticed his flock acting particularly energetic after nibbling the fruit of some nearby bushes. Kaldi sampled it and experienced the same sensation. He took the berries to a local monastery where the head monk first threw them into the fire to destroy them. However, after taking a whiff, the monk had a change of heart. He pulled them out and immersed them in water to make a drink that kept the monks awake during long hours of prayer.

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## LEGISLATION

Connie Dobrin



### **FEHB Rates to Jump Average 10.5 Percent Next Year**

The Office of Personnel Management has announced that 2001 premiums for the Federal Employees Health Benefits program will rise an average 10.5 percent over this year's rates. Rates for HMOs under the program will increase an average 8.5 percent, but fee-for-service plans, where most participants are signed up, will raise an average 10.9 percent (making the overall, weighted average 10.5 percent). The new rates are posted in our "hot free info" section of our Web site at <http://www.fedweek.com>. The FEHB open enrollment season runs from November 13 to December 11.

### **OPM: Prescription Drugs Costs Largely to Blame**

"The largest contributor to the FEHB premium increase is the rising cost of prescription drugs, which accounts for about 40 percent of the total rise," says the Office of Personnel Management. "Other contributors include greater use of medical services, the expanded use of effective, but more expensive, medical technology, and an older population," added OPM.

### **2001 FEHB Cost Averages**

FEHB enrollees who have self-only coverage will pay about \$3.50 more biweekly in 2001, while those with family coverage will pay \$9.00 more biweekly. In 2001, the average biweekly premium for self-only coverage will be \$36.52 for the enrollee and \$83.74 for the agency. For family coverage, the average premium for the enrollee and agency will be \$80.16 and \$191.09, respectively. By comparison, the 2000 biweekly rate for self-only coverage is \$33.00 for the enrollee and \$76.34 for the agency, says the Office of Personnel Management. For family coverage, the rate is \$71.22 for the enrollee and \$172.26 for the agency. The new health insurance premiums are effective in January 2001.

### **Health Premium Conversion Reminder**

Effective October 1, most executive branch employees will become eligible for a tax break through the new "premium conversion" arrangement under the Federal Employees Health Benefits program. The new program, which will result in FEHB premiums being paid from pre-tax money, will result in an average savings of more than \$400 a year in federal, Social Security and Medicare taxes, and also will produce savings in state and local taxes in many locations, the administration says.

Participation in the program is automatic unless the individual opts out of it.

### **Opt-Out Considerations**

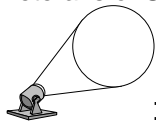
For FERS Employees Premium conversion will reduce the taxable Social Security wage base for FERS employees, with a resulting reduction in Social Security benefits for those under the Social Security maximum taxable wage (\$76,200 in 2000). However, in most cases the present tax saving will far outstrip the future Social Security benefit reduction.

### **For CSRS, CSRS-Offset Employees**

OPM says there is no reason why an employee under the CSRS retirement system should opt out of the conversion program for Social Security reasons since they are not covered by that program. Their tax savings would be slightly less since they don't pay Social Security taxes. For CSRS employees who have Social Security coverage as a result of a non-federal job, premium conversion would not change their Social Security benefits. CSRS-Offset employees are covered by Social Security and an Offset employee's Social Security benefits would be slightly reduced. But that person's total benefits come out about the same, experts say. One Other Consideration . . . Participating in "premium conversion" will have a minor effect on enrollment rights that some employees might wish to consider. Under premium conversion, they will be allowed to drop coverage or change to self-only outside of an open season only if their decision to do so comes at the time of a "qualifying life event."

### **REMINDER!!** **Jean Rhodes**

The Kennedy Space Center Native American Intertribal Council (NAIC) reminds everyone that the month of November is American Indian History Month. This is a good time for us all to reflect on the numerous contributions Native People have made to this country. We should also remember the Native American Veterans of U.S. wars on Veteran's Day.



### **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT** **Jane A. Eitel,**

I have been a member of the Space Coast Chapter of FEW since March 1996. Born in Malone, New York. In 1954, Jane graduated from the Franklin Academy. Twenty-five years later, Jane graduated from Clinton Community College, Plattsburgh, New York, with her AS Degree in Business Management. Professionally Jane began her career as a Secretary with the Clinton Correctional Facility at Dannemora, NY. Jane has been employed at the Kennedy Space Center, as a

Clerk/Typist then a Secretary for the past 15 years. She is currently employed in the Safety, Health and Independent Assessment Directorate, Process Management Division. When asked about her priorities her family of five (5) children, and five (5) grandchildren are number ONE. Elvis is second. She also enjoys reading, knitting, and walking. In addition to serving in her second term as the Secretary to the Chapter, Jane has been the Hostess Chair for a number of the Annual Training Programs. In addition, she has also been a member of the KSC Federal Women's Program Working Group for the past five (5) years. For leisure Jane enjoys the activities of the American Legion Auxiliary, Cape Canaveral, Unit 348, Challenger 7. She has seen duty as the Charter Chapter President, and from there worked up to the District where she held the following stations: two (2) years as the Assistant Sgt-at-Arms; Chaplain for one (1) year; and District President for one (1) year. From those positions, Jane progressed to the Department level for Cavalcade of Memories Chair, National Security Committee, Eastern Area President, which encompasses two districts (the Orlando area and the communities from Titusville to Stewart, FL). For the year 2000, she is once more on the National Security Committee. Jane has been a Sunday School teacher for 17 years, served as an Adult Literacy Volunteer, and was a member of the Sweet Adelines for fifteen (15) years. Her future aspiration: "I hope to get a Grade 7 before I retire, and then I would like to travel."

### **Federally Employed Women Executive Committee** **Karin Biega, FEW National Legal Chair**

*The fall meetings of the National Executive Committee conduct business of the National Organization between the annual (July) and the semi-annual (usually in February) Board of Directors meetings.*

*The agenda for this past meeting covered a variety of items, but special to Space Coast Chapter and the Southeast Region was getting approval of the NTP 2002 Chair, Treasurer and Finance Chair (Clara Anderson, Pam Steel and Patsy Leonard, respectively); plus the budget, theme and logo. I am happy to report that all were passed with little discussion. When you have good folks and ideas – it ain't hard.*

*As for past NTP reports, the 2000 Chair – Margaret Tolliver – was able to attend and the national organization has only received a preliminary financial report projecting a nice profit. The 1999 Chair – Romona Saunders – was also unable to attend, but a call was made to her and she reported she had mailed a \$40K check to the national treasurer earlier in the week.*

*This is wonderful news as it will about payoff the outstanding bills of the national organization; and any additional profits from 1999 and when the 2000 profits are mailed to the national treasurer, the regions which*

*conducted the 1996 and 97 NTPs should be able to receive their portion of these long standing debts.*

*We also participated in Strategic and Action Planning training sessions that really brought out some new ideas for doing business and doing it better. This training was conducted by past national president, Dorothy Nelms, who distributed actions from the sessions and we will get status at the next meeting.*

*The next meeting will be the semi-annual Board of Directors held in conjunction with the Southwest Regional Training Program in Galveston, Texas. This meeting is comprised of the Executive Committee (elected officers and committee chairs) plus the regional managers and representatives.*

### **SPACE COAST CHAPTER WEBSITE**

**Debbie Ward**

Don't forget to visit our FEW website at

<http://www.ksc.nasa.gov/groups/few/>

We are also linked from the FEW National website to our Chapter.

If you have additional info for the website please contact me at 867-0832 or e-mail at

[Deborah.Ward-1@kmail.ksc.nasa.gov](mailto:Deborah.Ward-1@kmail.ksc.nasa.gov)

### **HEALTH CORNER** **Submitted by Vickie Hall**

### **Space Coast Chapter Newsletter Editor**

**Rutha Williams**



This monthly publication is a means of sharing information and ideas, please send news articles or items of interest for this Newsletter to Rutha Williams at QA-D or e-mail [Rutha.Williams-1@kmail.ksc.nasa.gov](mailto:Rutha.Williams-1@kmail.ksc.nasa.gov)

Please feel free to share this Newsletter with your friends. And for anyone interested, a Membership Application is attached as the last page.

**FEDERALLY EMPLOYED WOMEN, INC.  
SPACE COAST CHAPTER  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

This form may also be used to notify the Membership Chairperson of any changes you have in personal data.  
Include name and corrected data only.

New Applicant

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Notice of Change

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Committees you would like to work on or Chair:

Finance \_\_\_\_\_ Bylaws \_\_\_\_\_ Seminar \_\_\_\_\_ Programs \_\_\_\_\_  
Community Outreach \_\_\_\_\_ Legislative \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarships \_\_\_\_\_  
Sunshine \_\_\_\_\_ Environmental \_\_\_\_\_ Historian \_\_\_\_\_

Officer positions you would be interested in serving:  
President \_\_\_\_\_ President Elect \_\_\_\_\_ Vice President \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_

Other areas of interest or things you would like Space Coast Chapter to address or provide  
a program covering a specific topic: \_\_\_\_\_

The following information is requested by the National Office for statistics only.

Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Series/Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle One:    SES    GM    GS    WG    Military    Other

Since dues are paid on a pro-rated basis, please contact the Membership Chairperson, Patricia Leonard, 867-8147, for  
payment amount and address.